

Region 1Hot Topics**R1 Coordinates with State Drinking Water Programs on COVID-19**

On March 19, R1 and the Connecticut Department of Public Health participated in a coordination call with water utility operators in Connecticut to discuss issues relating to the COVID-19 virus. On March 24, R1 hosted a COVID-19 coordination call with New England State Drinking Water Administrators to discuss sampling concerns, lab issues, operator certification and training, state resources, and public health considerations related to the COVID-19 virus. Both calls will continue on a weekly basis.

R1 Air Quality Valley Identification Tool

On March 24, R1 gave a presentation to EPA's National PM Advance workgroup on the R1 Valley Identification tool. This GIS tool identifies populated valleys throughout the region that are subject to winter air inversions, which can trap wood-smoke pollution. For several years, Region 1 and New England states have been using the Valley Identification tool to help plan air-quality monitoring, outreach, and mitigation. R1 has helped other regions develop similar Valley Identification tools.

Targeted Brownfields Assessments at Mills in Opportunity Zones

R1 is evaluating two mill sites under the Targeted Brownfields Assessment technical assistance program. On March 25, R1 held a planning call for a Phase 2 assessment to be conducted at the Great Norther Paper Mill in the Opportunity Zone of East Millinocket, ME. The Rand Street Mill in Pawtucket, RI, is located adjacent to an Opportunity Zone and suffered a devastating fire on March 14, and the team is working to assess and characterize the fire-related debris for disposal.

R1 Hosts Training in Financial Aspects of Civil Penalty Enforcement Actions

On March 17-18, R1 hosted EPA's Training in Financial Aspects of Civil Penalty Enforcement Actions course via an online Skype webinar. Trainers from Industrial Economics, Inc. provided a combination of classroom-style lectures, class exercises and questions and answers after each session. Training was designed for EPA and State enforcement staff with limited or no previous financial exposure and expertise. Approximately 33 enforcement staff from EPA and New England states attended this training.

PFAS at Fort Devens, Massachusetts

On March 18, the Nashua River Watershed Association (NRWA) sent a letter to Army outlining its concerns regarding ongoing PFAS releases to the river via groundwater/stormwater discharge from Ft. Devens in Massachusetts. RA Deziel, the MassDEP Commissioner, and several Congressionals were copied on the letter. Army's surface water sampling showed maximum detects of approximately 100 ppt for PFOA/PFOS, well below the site-specific screening level for a child recreator.

PFAS at Pease Air Force Base

On March 20, ATSDR released its final health consultation report on PFAS in the Pease Tradeport Public Water System, which concludes that drinking water exposures from 1993 to May 2014, before the impacted Haven Well was shut down, could have increased the risk for harmful non-cancer health effects to Tradeport workers and children attending the childcare centers. The public comment version of the report was released in April 2019, and a version was provided to the Pease International Tradeport stakeholders earlier this month.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Nothing to report.

Region 2Hot Topics**COVID-19**

Responding to “shelter-in-place” or similar orders from the respective Governors, COOP has been activated for all R2 offices. We are ensuring that all staff are teleworking and that contact with all employees is being maintained throughout the organization. We are evaluating ongoing work at Superfund and RCRA corrective action sites, in consultation with OLEM. Affected sites include:

VO Toys CERCLA Site: Two members of the contractor’s team exhibited COVID-like symptoms. Two EPA OSCs overseeing the work were in contact with those individuals. Site operations have been discontinued, and all affected personnel (including our OSCs) have begun a 14-day quarantine.

Pohatcong CERCLA Site, NJ: Work inside residential homes to complete connections to the installed drinking water line has been temporarily suspended. The homes all have existing point of entry treatment systems (POETS), and therefore have reliable drinking water.

Mira Trucking (Matteo) CERCLA Site: Site activities will be temporarily suspended. The large number of personnel (20-30) involved on a daily basis in site activities, including drivers who transport waste for disposal to other areas of NJ and PA, creates concerns regarding the potential for transmission of the COVID-19 virus.

Chemours Deepwater RCRA Site, NJ: Chemours suspended in-home residential PFAS sampling until mid-April and will then re-assess. Chemours completed most of the sampling for the first quarter of 2020 and will submit the results to EPA and NJDEP. A total of 141 residences were sampled; 13 residences were not sampled. In its upcoming quarterly report, Chemours will note locations which were not sampled due to the work being suspended or residents declining sampling at this time due to health concerns.

Discussion with Rep. Gonzalez-Colon

On March 26, RA Lopez and staff will speak with the Puerto Rico Resident Commissioner, who is interested in EPA’s efforts to bring the Toa Alta, PR, landfill (actually, an open dump) into compliance with Solid Waste Act requirements. We will advise her that the matter has been referred to DOJ for civil enforcement, and that we are also working with the Commonwealth government and other stakeholders to identify potential sources of funding that might be available to help the municipality achieve and maintain compliance.

Discussion with PR NGOs Regarding No Action Assurances

On March 25, RA Lopez and staff from R2 and OECA had a teleconference with Ruth Santiago, a citizen activist, and representatives from a number of NGOs (including EarthJustice). They are concerned about the No Action Assurance (NAA) requested by the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority after the January 2020 earthquake that damaged one of PREPA’s four major power plants. Ms. Santiago and her colleagues suggested that PR’s power needs are not as great as PREPA suggests, and that the grid is less fragile than suggested. They believe that if the NAA is granted, increased air emissions would exacerbate COVID risks to residents, as well as ailments like asthma (PR has among the highest rates of asthma in the nation).

Port of Albany, NY

The Port, located in an Opportunity Zone, has asked for fast-tracking approval of a risk-based TSCA PCB application for site cleanup. R2 seeks to advance initiatives that accelerate environmental cleanup and promote redevelopment. We are working with the Port and NYSDEC to resolve technical issues with the cleanup.

OIG Inquiry Regarding Public Engagement Near ETO Facilities

EPA’s OIG has inquired of R2 whether a planned public meeting to provide information about the Edwards ETO facility in Anasco, PR, would proceed or would be cancelled due to COVID concerns. We postponed that meeting and will so notify OIG.

Sen. Booker Staff Briefing Regarding Levine Reservoir, Patterson, NJ

On March 27, RA Lopez and staff will speak with Sen. Booker's staff about this facility located in the Great Falls Historic District. The reservoir needs to be covered to protect drinking water supplies; this has raised concerns about the preservation of its historic elements.

Hoosick Falls CPWG Virtual Meeting

On March 25, the Hoosick Falls Community Participation Workgroup held a virtual meeting. NYSDEC gave a site update and addressed the CPWG's questions arising from the December presentation of the EPA ORD stack testing report. Technical difficulties made it impossible to use a PowerPoint presentation, and the answers given were sometimes technically complex.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Virtual Meeting with Shinnecock Indian Nation

On April 1, RA Lopez and staff will hold a virtual meeting with Shinnecock representatives to discuss the nation's plans to develop a commercial oyster hatchery and ways in which EPA can support that effort. Representatives from the Small Business Administration will join the call.

Region 3Hot Topics**Dominion to pay \$1.4 million in agreement between EPA, VADEQ and Dominion Energy**

On March 13, a CWA and CERCLA/EPCRA Release Consent Decree between EPA, VADEQ, and Dominion Energy Virginia was lodged for multiple CWA and CERCLA/EPCRA violations. As a result, Dominion Energy will pay \$1.4 million for violations which include failure to comply with NPDES permit effluent limitations; failure to operate consistently with NPDES permit requirements; failure to comply with construction stormwater permit requirements, and failure to immediately report a release of ammonia to appropriate agencies. In addition to the penalty, Dominion is required to conduct environmental compliance audits at numerous facilities and implement a comprehensive environmental management system. VADEQ collaborated with EPA on its CWA investigations and is a co-plaintiff and signatory to the decree.

Brownfield Assessment Complete in Bluefield, West Virginia

EPA completed Phase II environmental assessment work for the historic Law and Commerce Building in Bluefield, WV, which is owned by the Community Action of South Eastern West Virginia (CASE WV). CASE WV is a community action agency that provides a wide array of resources and support to people of all ages across 12 southern WV counties. CASE WV provides youth and senior citizen programs, housing programs, social status groups, and business education programs. EPA is working with CASE WV and the West Virginia Brownfields Assistance at Marshall University to assess asbestos containing materials, lead based paint, and mold at the site. The 10,695 square foot building is currently used for office space and will require extensive renovations including a new roof. Cited as the first modern office building in Bluefield, The Law & Commerce Building is listed on the National Historic Register and located within a designated national Bluefield Downtown Commercial Historic District. Initially, the cost for asbestos abatement was estimated at over \$1.3 million, and City officials were planning to demolish the building. The remediation cost estimate generated by sampling and analysis under EPA's Targeted Brownfield Assessment estimates asbestos removal at only \$98,000. Consequently, CASE WV is pursuing a grant from the WV State Historic Preservation Office to install a new roof and instead of demolition, renovation is strongly supported by the City officials and residents of Bluefield, due to the building's historical significance.

Partnership with the Delaware Estuary to Environmental Justice (EJ) Training

The R3 National Estuary Program Team presented EJ training for the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary on March 19. The webinar was attended by 44 participants from the Partnership. This was the first training on EJ to be presented to the group. The training provided a comprehensive history of EJ, the use and application of EJSCREEN, and perspectives on the Chester, PA, Study as it related to EJ, cumulative risk, and the use of information to better serve communities. This introductory webinar will be followed by additional presentations and follow-up activities as requested to assist the group as it works to better integrate Environmental Justice into its work with communities. This webinar will be followed by additional presentations and follow-up activities as to assist the group as it works to better integrate Environmental Justice into its work with communities.

NASA Wallops Suspending Most Environmental Activities

NASA Wallops has moved to mandatory telework, which means all onsite work will stop unless it is mission critical or to ensure safety and health. The only environmental field work that will continue is the Wallops Flight Facility/Town of Chincoteague (TOC) drinking water monitoring for PFAS. The construction activities for the TOC water treatment system, which was very close to going online, will also be shut down. NASA has taken these measures for everyone's health and safety and to help control the community spread of COVID-19.

Record of Decision and Explanation of Significant Differences Signed for Spectron, Inc. Superfund Site

On March 19, EPA issued a Record of Decision for the Bedrock Groundwater portion Operable Unit 2 at this site in Elkton, Cecil County, MD. The selected remedy for the bedrock groundwater consists of the operation of the Stream Isolation and Groundwater Treatment System; extracting and disposing of dense non-aqueous phase liquid; monitoring groundwater, surface water, vapor intrusion; and land use restrictions. The selected remedy

for the Bedrock Groundwater also includes a Technical Impracticability Waiver. EPA also issued an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) for Operable Unit 1. The ESD modifies the ambient water quality criteria to the Maryland promulgated ambient water quality criteria.

Virginia Nonpoint Source Success: Adding Best Management Practices Reduces Bacteria in Deep Creek

Bacteria from nonpoint sources of pollution, including livestock, pets, humans and wildlife, impaired an 11.55-mile-long segment of Deep Creek. Consequently, this segment of Deep Creek failed to meet the bacteria Water Quality Standard (WQS) for its designated use of recreation. To address this, state and federal agencies, including the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and R3, collaborated with watershed stakeholders to implement agricultural best management practices to reduce nonpoint source pollutant loadings. These practices included installing 25 miles of stream exclusion fencing; and planting 3,926 acres of harvestable cover crops; 1,603 acres of small grain and mixed cover crops; 1,583 acres of legume-based cover crops; and 176 acres of continuous no-till forage production. Partners also installed two animal waste control facilities and established 138 acres of forest on former cropland, Hayland, and pastureland. A total of \$2,096,736 contributed towards restoration efforts consisted of State funds, state cost-shares, the Water Quality Improvement fund, among other partners, leveraged with 5% consisting of Federal 319(h) dollars. Water quality monitoring data exhibited a decline in bacteria violation rates in Deep Creek, allowing it to be removed from the state's impaired waters list in the 2016 Clean Water Act Sections 305(b)/303(d) Water Quality Assessment Integrated Report.

Gunpowder Riverkeeper Notices Intent to Sue Over Gunpowder and Bird Rivers PCB TMDL Approvals

On October 3, 2016, EPA approved MDE's polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for the Gunpowder and Bird Rivers. On February 27, Gunpowder Riverkeeper submitted a 60-day notice of intent to file a citizen suit alleging that EPA had a mandatory duty to disapprove the TMDLs. The notice alleges that the TMDLs fail to assign a baseline load or load allocation to the rivers' bottom sediments, and that the bottom sediments represent the major source of PCBs to both rivers. MDE considers PCB loads from bottom sediments as internal loads to the system; therefore, it did not assign the bottom sediments a load allocation as part of the TMDL. Gunpowder Riverkeeper is open to meeting with EPA within the 60-day notice period to attempt to resolve the issue prior to their filing suit.

EPA Approves Virginia's Infrastructure SIP for the 2015 Ozone NAAQS

On March 17, EPA published a final rule approving Virginia's infrastructure state implementation plan (SIP) submittal for the 2015 ozone national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS); 85 FR 15074. The Clean Air Act (CAA) section 110(a)(1) requires states to submit, within 3 years after promulgating or revising a NAAQS, a plan that provides for the "implementation, maintenance, and enforcement" of the NAAQS. CAA section 110(a)(2) requires that the plan address basic program elements including monitoring, modeling, legal authority, and adequate resources to assure attainment and maintenance of the NAAQS. These requirements are commonly referred to as "infrastructure requirements" and the plan submissions addressing these requirements are commonly referred to as "infrastructure SIPs." Virginia formally submitted a SIP revision addressing the infrastructure requirements for the 2015 ozone NAAQS, on January 28, 2019. EPA is approving Virginia's submittal as satisfying the infrastructure requirements for the 2015 ozone NAAQS. For more information, see docket EPA-R03-OAR-2019-0162 at [[HYPERLINK](#)

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"<https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.federalregister.gov%2F&data=02%7C01%7CPurnell.rhonda%40epa.gov%7C6990c33276f541e28ec008d7d0000ee7%7C88b378b367484867acf976aacbeca6a7%7C0%7C0%7C637206570976273262&sdata=FkXlr9TqB8xPA2LoGsDXliSPH0XBmBLdUdaWqyv5O7A%3D&reserved=0>" \t "_blank" \o "Original URL: <http://www.federalregister.gov/>. Click or tap if you trust this link."].

EPA Proposing to Redesignate West Virginia's Portion of the Steubenville, OH-WV Nonattainment Area

On March 20, EPA published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) proposing to approve West Virginia's request to redesignate their portion of the Steubenville, OH-WV nonattainment area from nonattainment to attainment for the 2010 sulfur dioxide (SO₂) national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS); 85 FR 16038. A portion of Brooke County in West Virginia was designated nonattainment for the 2010 SO₂ NAAQS as part of the Steubenville, OH-WV nonattainment area. The CAA permits redesignation of an area to attainment provided that the area satisfies the requirements of CAA section 107(d)(3)(E) for the NAAQS. On August 22, 2019, West Virginia submitted a request to redesignate their portion of the nonattainment area and a maintenance plan for their portion of the Steubenville, OH-WV SO₂ NAAQS nonattainment area. EPA is proposing to find that West Virginia meets the requirements for redesignation to attainment for the nonattainment area.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Nothing to report.

Region 4Hot Topics**COVID-19 Activities**

R4 management was alerted to the first positive case of COVID-19 in the Region on the afternoon of March 24. Working with GSA, we are implementing cleaning protocols per CDC guidance. R4 has also activated the COOP, utilizing the Pandemic annex, for the Atlanta and Athens offices based on local shelter-in-place orders on March 26 and March 20, respectively. RA Walker is holding an All Hands conference call with R4 staff and is hosting a State Commissioners Call with Regional leadership on March 26. Regional leadership meets daily to coordinate responses to COVID-19 issues.

Ethylene Oxide (EtO)

R4 worked with HQ and GA EPD to develop messaging related to several sterilizers in the Atlanta metro area. R4 attended a negative pressure test at the Sterigenics facility in Cobb County, GA, on March 24, and on March 25 the County passed an emergency order permitting temporary operations of the facility due to the need for sterilization of PPE for COVID-19 response. Also, GAEPD and BD filed a joint motion to amend the consent order in Newton County court. On March 25, the court approved the amendment, which temporarily increases the number of medical devices BD may sterilize in their Covington and Madison, GA facilities.

Jackson, MS Public Water System

RA Walker conducted outreach calls to the MS Governor's office and MS Department of Public Health concerning findings from EPA inspection of the water system. R4 has coordinated with OECA and a SDWA 1431 order will be issued this week.

Cruise Ship - Vessel General Permit (VGP) issues

MSC Cruises, Inc, a VGP permittee, is seeking a "waiver" for permit conditions regarding the discharge of treated graywater (sinks, showers and galley wastewater) for two cruise vessels in Port of Miami, Florida. MSC has not performed the proper testing to discharge within three nautical miles of the U.S. R4 is working with HQ to coordinate a response to the permittee. HQ also provided information regarding two ships that have never been in U.S. waters but are coming to Miami with sick passengers. The ships just submitted their NOIs today to be able to be covered under the VGP and discharge in port. These cruise ships were carrying sick passengers and were allowed to enter a U.S. port by the USCG to allow the sick passengers to disembark to seek help.

Petro/High Mesa

On March 20, the Trustee in the Petro Operating Co. bankruptcy notified the court that the sale of the Facility to Black Creek Energy, LLC, closed. R4 has been in contact with representatives of Black Creek Energy, LLC to discuss permitting and financial responsibility obligations under the SDWA, and R4 continues to ensure that the Facility is in compliance with the SDWA at the Facility.

Oak Ridge Reservation, TN (DOE)

On March 27, R4 will participate in an "emerging issue team" call for the Oak Ridge Reservation. DOE's contractor will facilitate the call between DOE, TDEC, and R4. Additionally, R4 awaits HQ feedback on the water quality levels prepared by R4, as well as DOE's calculated effluent numbers. The outcome of the dispute will impact the upcoming ROD for the proposed new landfill.

FL 404 Assumption

FDEP has announced it is scheduling three virtual public hearings via webinars that will take place between April 2 and April 6 regarding FDEP's NOPR, and comments will be accepted by until April 6.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

All events planned for this week were cancelled/postponed by external parties due to COVID-19.

Region 5Hot Topics**USS Lead Zone 1 ROD Signing**

On March 25, EPA announced that Administrator Wheeler had signed the amended ROD for cleaning up Zone 1 of the USS Lead Superfund site in East Chicago, Ind. As part of this announcement, R5 briefed congressional staffers and held a press call for local reporters. The cleanup to residential reuse standards would cost approximately \$28.8 million and would take 7 months. The amended ROD includes contingency cleanup plans should the property be developed for commercial use instead of residential. The current plan continues to provide long-term protection to the people of East Chicago and the environment.

GLLA Project Agreement for Detroit Riverwalk

RA Thiede signed an amended GLLA project agreement to remove sediment along the Detroit riverfront. Through an ongoing public-private partnership with the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy, this agreement allows for continued cleanup and revitalization of AOCs along the Detroit river. In January, RA Thiede signed a \$2.5 million agreement to remediate sediment within the Detroit River AOC through a GLLA cost-sharing partnership with DRC. The original project focused on creating a waterfront park as a result of the remediation efforts. This expanded agreement will allow for the addition of a riverwalk along the Detroit River.

R5 Responds to Citizen Petition for Withdrawal of Ohio NPDES Program

Preceding a March 31, deadline set with the Office of Inspector General, RA Thiede signed an interim response to the ongoing petition for EPA to withdraw Ohio's NPDES program. The response states that EPA will not be de-delegating authority based on two of three sets of issues presented in the petition. The first involves programs that are specific to the state and are not under federal regulation. The other involves a potential transfer of authority which has not occurred. EPA is continuing to review and assess the third set of concerns in the citizen petition.

Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota Requesting a Waivers for Summer Fuel Requirements

As a result of COVID-19 measures, states are experiencing decreased demand for their current winter gasoline blends. This has resulted in a lack of storage capacity to make the transition to summer gasoline blends which progressively step down to lower volatility standards. The American Petroleum Institute has assisted states within R5 in requesting a waiver to increase flexibility for the upcoming May 1 volatility requirements. R5 has referred these requests to OAR and OECA and is prepared to assist and implement national guidance.

Illinois, Ohio and Wisconsin Suspending Vehicle Emissions Testing Programs

All three states have temporarily suspended their inspection and maintenance (I/M) testing requirements in response to COVID-19. The suspensions are expected to last until the states begin reissuing and enforcing vehicle registration requirements. R5 elevated this issue to OTAQ. OTAQ is aware of the urgency and is actively working on a response. In the meantime, R5 is continuing discussions with the impacted States to ensure I/M testing can resume effectively when the suspension is lifted.

Marathon Petroleum Idles Two Refineries within R5

As a result of COVID-19, Marathon Petroleum has reduced staff and production at 16 refineries across the country. There are two refineries in R5 located in Toledo and Detroit. Marathon Petroleum reached out to state and federal regulators to inform them of their decision to move to minimal operations. They also expressed their desire to avoid going into a shutdown status due to potential emissions events triggered during shutdown and startup operations.

R5 Held Conference Call for State Agency Directors to Collaborate on COVID-19 Responses

On March 25, R5 coordinated a call with state agency leaders to discuss current operations in response to COVID-19. Each state remains committed to protecting health and human safety of their respective staffs while ensuring that the environmental mission remains a top priority.

Recognizing each state has moved to teleworking, questions surrounding enforcement and drinking water programs were at the forefront of the discussion. Each of the respective division directors within R5 will be following up with additional guidance to the corresponding state department directors. In addition, there is another R5 and state agency coordinated call scheduled for two weeks.

R5 Conducted All-Hands Conference Call

On March 24, RA Thiede and DRA Newton hosted a teleconference for all Region 5 employees. RA Thiede shared the Agency's COVID-19 response and solicited questions from the more than 1,000 callers. Employees within R5 responded to the Agency's COVID-19 response with roughly two dozen questions. The most common questions surrounded testing for employees, donating equipment, and how to address childcare concerns if COOP/unscheduled teleworking does not extend beyond the current date of April 7.

R5 Successfully Conducted Virtual Monthly Business Review Meeting

In response to the current teleworking environment, R5 conducted their monthly business review meeting through a Skype session with senior leadership and the Office of Continuous Improvement. As part of the bowling chart review, R5 acknowledged their decreased permits backlog, decreased number of nonattainment areas, and increase in FOIA response times. In addition to addressing ongoing work in the Region, each division shared the ELMS tools they were using to keep the momentum going while employees are teleworking. The Office of Continuous Improvement also provided feedback on the bowling chart, Skype session and ELMS updates.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

April 2: RA Thiede Intends to Sign the St. Regis ROD

R5 is preparing to announce the record of decision for OU7 of the St. Regis Paper Co. Superfund site on the Leech Lake Reservation in Minnesota. In addition to a news release, the communications plan will include outreach to federal, state, and local elected officials, community members, and other stakeholders.

Region 6Hot Topics**COVID-19**

R6 has seen an increase in the number of Force Majeure declarations by regulated parties including municipalities and industry; and grant extensions for delayed deliverables due to COVID-19. Over 98% of R6 employees are teleworking. R6 offices in Dallas, Houston, and El Paso have activated our COOP. The Tulsa office remains open with unscheduled telework. One R6 employee reported symptoms and has been tested for COVID-19. Results are expected in three to five days. Travel has been restricted to emergency and mission critical activities to April 3. All other routine travel has been postponed. All R6 state offices are teleworking, and most Tribal Environmental Offices have reduced their activities. R6 is coordinating closely with our state/tribal environmental and public health agencies as well as EPA HQ offices to elevate and address challenges quickly.

Louisiana Governor Requesting NEPA Waiver, Louisiana

On March 18, Louisiana Governor John Edwards sent a letter to President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence that identified a list of actions that could quickly put millions of dollars of assistance at the State of Louisiana's disposal in the fight against COVID-19 with no impact on the federal budget. The letter requested to waive NEPA compliance requirements for funded activities. This would require both legislative and administrative HUD actions. The request to waive NEPA compliance is related to a subset of HUD activities focused on Community Development Block Grants for disaster recovery. It is likely that HUD already has exigent procedures in place within their own implementing instructions, in addition to CEQ's guidance to all agencies on procedures during emergency actions at 40 CFR 1506.11. Upon R6 EPA and OGC review, we recommended this request be re-directed to HUD.

Stop Sale Use and Removal Order against NOKOUT for coronavirus claims

EPA plans to issue a Stop Sale Use and Removal Order (SSURO) against NOKOUT.com for the registered pesticide product "Sniper" for making false Coronavirus claims on their website.

San Jacinto River Waste Pits, Channelview, Texas

On March 23, responsible parties mobilized to the San Jacinto site to undertake work to further protect the edge of the armored cap. The work involves placing additional rock in three areas outside the edge of the armored cap to provide additional slope stabilization and scour protection. The slope stabilization work addresses areas where riverbed elevations had decreased as a result of a barge being grounded on the armored cap during Tropical Storm Imelda last fall. On March 25, EPA participated in a virtual technical work group (TWG) meeting for the San Jacinto site. EPA (Region and HQ), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, TCEQ and the responsible parties will participate.

Clean Harbors Lone Mountain, Waynoka, Oklahoma

On March 31, EPA and ODEQ will replace a planned visit with a conference call to Clean Harbors Lone Mountain facility in Waynoka, OK. The purpose of the discussion is to review the operations at the facility including the use of "put piles." Placing the material on the ground prior to confirmation it has met treatment standards could be a violation of the Land Disposal Restrictions. To bring this practice into compliance, Clean Harbors Lone Mountain is interested in submitting a request for a No-Migration Variance. This collective discussion will assist in the development of additional guidance for industry to submit a No-Migration Variance specifically for the use of "Put Piles" to stage treated waste prior to final disposal.

Chevron Questa Mine Superfund Site, Questa, New Mexico

EPA is preparing a Proposed Plan to amend the Record of Decision for the Chevron Questa Mine Site to address CWA requirements. These releases are currently addressed through a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. EPA is working with NMED Surface Water Bureau to finalize discharge requirements for inclusion in the Proposed Plan. Although progress has been made on the discharge requirements, additional

technical analysis for anti-degradation requirements is required prior to issuance of the Proposed Plan which will affect the projected schedule to brief the Administrator. The estimated issuance of the Plan is now July, with the Administrator briefing scheduled in June.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

New Mexico Interstate Transport Requirements, New Mexico

By April 3, EPA anticipates final action approving New Mexico's SIP revision for 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard. This action is taken to demonstrate that the New Mexico SIP meets the Clean Air Act (CAA) transport requirements for the 2008 Ozone NAAQS.

Revisions to Texas SIP, Texas

By April 14, EPA anticipates proposed approval for revisions to the Texas SIP for Construction Prior to Permit Amendment Issuance. Proposal allows revisions to the Texas SIP for certain minor NSR actions. This rulemaking action is being proposed in parallel with the state's proposed rulemaking action. TCEQ comment period closed March 17. TCEQ received two supportive comments on the proposal. TCEQ anticipates adoption of the final SIP revision in July, with the SIP revision submitted in August. EPA cannot go final until the state adopts and submits a final SIP revision.

Louisiana Underground Storage Tank Program

R6 intends to approve the Louisiana Re-SPA package. Under the 2015 state program approval (SPA) regulation, states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, which currently have SPA, must reapply in order to retain their SPA status.

Texas Underground Storage Tank Program

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Region 7Hot Topics**Missouri River Unidentified Tank Response**

R7 conducted field reconnaissance to locate and retrieve a 10-15,000 gallon tank that had been reported in the Missouri River near Waverly, MO. The state of Missouri requested assistance from EPA in locating and retrieving a large renegade tank in the Missouri River near Baltimore Island. Initial reconnaissance was conducted on March 19, but weather and river conditions prohibited tank retrieval. EPA was not able to determine what, if any, hazardous substances or oil were in the tank. On March 23, EPA returned to the last known location of the tank but was unable to locate it after surveying roughly 10 miles of river and shoreline. The responders determined that the Missouri River cresting over the weekend either submerged the tank or dislodged it to another location. R7 responders left contact information with the local levee control officials to notify EPA if the tank reappeared. MDNR and EPA phone duty officers will continue to monitor and will retrieve the tank if possible.

Syntex Facility Superfund Site Private Well Sampling Results

Private well testing results are being provided to property owners near the Syntex Facility Superfund Site in Verona, MO. In response to community concerns, R7 recently conducted private well sampling in the area surrounding the Syntex Facility Superfund Site where several companies historically produced Agent Orange, or hexachlorophene, contaminating groundwater and soil with dioxin and volatile organic compounds. R7 sampled 117 private wells from December 2019 through February, and to date has received analytical results for 45 of the wells. Data transmittal letters for these results were approved and will be mailed this week. Results for the remaining wells are expected to be received by April 5. The partial sampling results to date indicate very limited impact to groundwater quality in wells near the Syntex Facility. Only one well showed concentrations of 1,4-dioxane, which are below a level requiring action. This result is consistent with a previous sample collected from the same well. EPA is currently working with Syntex to evaluate options to address the impacted well.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Nothing to report.

Region 8Hot Topics**Federal Implementation Plan (FIP) for Air Emissions on the Uintah & Ouray Indian Reservation, Utah**

The comment period for the U&O FIP closed on March 23. Comments were received from 11 parties including American Petroleum Institute, Utah Petroleum Association, Western Energy Alliance, Utah Department of Environmental Quality, the Ute tribe, various environmental groups, and several oil and gas operators. Comments from industry were generally supportive of the U&O FIP and provided recommendations for changes. We are working to finalize this rulemaking in the summer of 2020 with additional HQ coordination, tribal consultation and OMB review.

Fourth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule Results Exceed Drinking Water Health Advisory

Recently available UCMR4 data show two additional water systems with manganese results above the health advisory for chronic exposure and 10-day exposure for infants of 300 µg/L (micrograms/L). Follow-up with the water systems revealed situational factors that do not present any current risk to drinking water customers.

EPA R8 Issues Notice of Violation to EP Energy E&P Company, L.P.

R8 issued a joint NOV with the State of Utah to EP Energy E&P Company, L.P. (EP Energy) for alleged Clean Air Act (CAA) violations at EP Energy's oil and natural gas production operations in the Uinta Basin. The EPA and the State of Utah jointly allege violations of CAA Standards of Performance for Crude Oil and Natural Gas Production Facilities (NSPS OOOO and OOOOa) and violations of provisions of federally-enforceable approval orders issued by the State of Utah. On October 3, 2019, EP Energy filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy to restructure its debt. The bar date for government claims is March 31. EP Energy was provided an opportunity to confer with the EPA and the State of Utah regarding the alleged violations.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

RA Sopkin and the Chief of Staff have the following external stakeholder conference calls scheduled for the week of March 30 - April 3.

March 30	Dakota Resource Council Executive Director Scott Skokos
March 3	ND Congressional Offices (Sens Hoeven, Cramer, and Rep Armstrong)
March 31	ND Petroleum Council
March 31	Governor Burgum and David Glatt and Lynn Helms
March 31	Lt. Governor Sanford; Reice Haase, Sr. Policy Advisor; Senator Unruh, Energy and Nat Resources Chair
April 3	State Director's call with Region 8 States (CO, MT, ND, SD, UT and WY)

Region 9Hot Topics**FIFRA Enforcement Actions**

We recommended the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) prevent the importation of four shipments containing 700 packages of unregistered and misbranded *Virus Shut Out* cards through the port of Honolulu from Hong Kong and Japan. The unregistered Virus Shut Out cards pose a potential danger to the public in that they may create an unsubstantiated illusion of protection against COVID-19 while exposing users of the product to potential skin burns and irritation or damage to their eyes or respiratory system. In addition, we sent a letter to ContextLogic (dba Wish.com) requesting they remove from E-commerce at least 18 potentially unregistered public health pesticides listed for sale, including some that make Coronavirus/Covid-19 claims.

New Targeted Brownfields Assessment Contract

On March 24, we held a kickoff meeting with contractors to discuss management and coordination of activities under a new RCRA contract task order to support Targeted Brownfields Assessments. The contractor already has begun work on the first five projects, including three on behalf of tribes (Elk Valley Rancheria, Fort McDermitt Paiute Shoshone Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation), one for a county government (County of Kauai) and one for a nonprofit organization (Temple Beth Shalom Long Beach)

PFAS Second Quarter Data Analysis Discussion with California

On March 25, R9 staff presented the results of their analysis of California PFAS Data to Wendy Linck of the State Water Resources Control Board as part of an ongoing collaboration. The analysis displayed PFAS chemical fingerprints in drinking water wells in California along with concentration changes between Quarter 1 and Quarter 2. The California data were obtained from required sampling of drinking water wells for 18 PFAS compounds in the vicinity of airports, landfills, and plating shops.

Plains All-American Pipeline Consent Decree is Lodged

On March 13, R9 lodged a Consent Decree with Plains All-American Pipeline LP and Plains Pipeline LP, to resolve liability for the discharge of 2,934 barrels of crude oil from the Line 901 pipeline on May 19, 2015. Oil from the release entered the Pacific Ocean, causing significant environmental, economic and recreational impacts. EPA is joined in the settlement by other federal and state plaintiff agencies. Plains will pay a total of \$24 million in penalties, \$9.45 million of which will resolve Plains' liability for the discharge pursuant to Section 311(b) of the Clean Water Act. Plains also will pay \$14.5 million to resolve PHMSA violations, and \$22.325 million toward resource damages.

ASARCO LLC Pays Stipulated Penalties for Violations at Primary Copper Smelter in Hayden, Arizona

On February 14, EPA demanded \$33,000 in stipulated penalties from ASARCO LLC for not complying with a fugitive dust plan required under a CAA consent decree entered in 2015, which ASARCO paid on March 4. The EPA-approved fugitive dust plan requires ASARCO to operate water sprayer systems at various sites to abate fugitive dust emissions. After reviewing ASARCO's records, EPA identified 33 days during which water was not sprayed on certain required fugitive dust sources. Under the terms of the 2015 consent decree, ASARCO is liable for \$1,000 each day the water sprayers were not operating, resulting in \$33,000 in stipulated penalties.

Santa Barbara Crude Oil Spill, (Santa Barbara, CA)

On March 21, Santa Barbara County contacted the California Office of Emergency Services to report a release of crude oil from a tanker truck collision on CA Hwy 166 in Santa Barbara County. California Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) requested EPA assistance. R9's OSC confirmed that the full tanker load of 6000 gallons discharged into the Cuyama river and flowed approximately two miles downstream and was contained by a containment boom and other measures. There are no reported drinking water intakes along the Cuyama River between the incident location and the reservoir downstream. Releases from the reservoir provide base flows for the federally listed steelhead trout. The responsible party, Petrol Transport Inc. of Bakersfield

CA, mobilized a cleanup contractor. R9 engaged with representatives of the Chumash Nation to consult on potentially impacted tribal cultural resources.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Letter to Pacific Island Territories Governors Announcing Lead Testing in Schools Funding

This week we will be notifying the Governors of American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands of the availability of new funding to support lead testing in schools and childcare facilities. The Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN Act) of 2016 authorized a grant program to support this testing.

Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC) Spring Meeting

The Spring RTOC is currently scheduled for April 28-30. The Grants Office will host a session on the following topics requested by tribes: introduction to the R9 Grants Handbook, workplan and budget modifications, and other grant updates. Additionally, in response to a Winter RTOC's action item, the Grants Office will offer to present on the EPA budget process, in collaboration with the Comptroller's Office.

Federal Register Notice

Next week, we will request that RA Busterud review, in preparation for OP review and RA signature, a Federal Register notice proposing to find that the West Pinal County nonattainment area failed to attain the 24-hour PM10 standard. If finalized, the West Pinal County nonattainment area will be reclassified to serious and the State will be required to submit a serious area attainment plan.

Region 10Hot Topics**Naval Base Kitsap, Bangor (WA)**

The Navy has reported a second detection of PFAS in groundwater/drinking water above the EPA Lifetime Health Advisory, and the homeowners have been placed on bottled water as of March 20. Extra precautions were taken to ensure the safety of the homeowner and the team providing the water due to COVID-19. The Navy will likely complete the original planned 292 off-site PFAS groundwater samples, but any further testing may be delayed by the COVID-19 situation.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events**Submittal of Alaska 2018 Integrated Report**

On March 23, EPA received the letter of submittal of the 2018 Integrated Report from Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. We expect to receive the electronic database submittal and GIS documentation by April 1. The submission of this list is critical to meet the court deadline in which EPA must take approval action by June 30, on the delisting of the last two listed segments from the Crooked Creek watershed related to the 1992 303(d) list.

Tribal Consultation Invitation Letters for Pending CWA Actions (AK)

R10 anticipates sending letters during the week of March 31 to Alaska tribes inviting them to initiate government-to-government consultations on two separate pending CWA actions: (1) a water quality submittal from Alaska DEC on the revised narrative residues criteria; and (2) the 2018 Integrated Report that identifies and lists the impaired waters in the state of Alaska. We plan to coincide the invitation letters in one email transmittal, while making clear that the invitations are associated with two separate CWA actions.

Coeur d'Alene Lake Optimization Review (ID)

The week of April 6, R10 anticipates sending the Coeur d'Alene Tribe and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality a report on the review of Coeur d'Alene Lake, focused on metals contamination at the bottom of the lake as well as trends in nutrient loading that could impact lake health. The report summarizes several decades of data from ongoing monitoring of the larger Coeur d'Alene River basin and evaluations of cleanup actions taken to address mine waste from the Coeur d'Alene mining district, located along the South Fork Coeur d'Alene River, approximately 50 miles upstream of the lake.

Office of Air and Radiation

Hot Topics

Packages for Signature

- NESHAP: Phosphoric Acid Manufacturing (Proposed Rule)
- Riverside Title V Petition Order
- Vehicle Test Procedure Adjustments for Tier 3 Test Fuel (Proposed Rule)
- MATS E-Reporting (Proposed Rule)
- Fuels Regulatory Streamlining (Proposed Rule)
- SAFE (Final Rule)
- Light Duty Greenhouse Gas Program Technical Amendments (Final Rule)

Packages at OMB for Review

- Light Duty Greenhouse Gas Program Technical Amendments (Final Rule: RECEIVED DATE August 19, 2019)
- MATS RTR & Cost Review (Final Rule: RECEIVED DATE October 4, 2019)
- SAFE (Final Rule: RECEIVED January 14)
- MATS Coal Refuse-Fired Units (Final Rule: RECEIVED January 29)
- Boiler MACT (Proposed Rule: RECEIVED February 7)
- Biogenic CO₂ (Proposed Rule: RECEIVED February 24)
- Granting Petitions to Add n-Propyl Bromide to the List of Hazardous Air Pollutants (Final Notice: RECEIVED February 24)
- PM NAAQS (Proposed Rule: RECEIVED March 4)

Packages Heading to OMB Soon

- Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) and Nonattainment New Source Review (NNSR): Reconsideration of Fugitive Emissions (Proposed Rule)
- Cost Benefit Rule (Proposed Rule)
- NSPS for GHG Emissions From New, Modified, and Reconstructed Stationary Sources: EGUs (Final Rule)
- Amendments Related to Marine Diesel Engine Emission Standards (Final Rule)

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

ENERGY STAR Partner Awards

As early as March 31, the ENERGY STAR program will announce their annual partner awards, recognizing 191 ENERGY STAR partners –including Fortune 500 companies, schools, retailers, manufacturers, home builders, and commercial building owners and operators – for their national leadership in cost-saving energy efficient solutions. Communications include a HQ press release, social media, and regional amplification. (Note: the awards ceremony, scheduled for April 2, in D.C., has been cancelled.)

American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) Environment Committee Meeting

Next week, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator Idsal will speak via teleconference to the AISI Environment Committee on OAR's 2020 priorities.

Interpretation of "Begin Actual Construction" Under the Major NSR Permitting Program

This week, EPA posted draft guidance addressing EPA's interpretation of "begin actual construction" under the regulations implementing the major New Source Review (NSR) permitting program. EPA will accept comment on this draft guidance for 45 days.

Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution PreventionHot Topics**Updates to List N - Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2; Commodity Ingredient Burden Reduction**

On March 27, OPP released its third update to the List N - Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2. The list includes 70 additional disinfectants, bringing the total number of products to 351. OPP has also expanded List N to include applicable product-specific use patterns and application methods (e.g., hard vs soft surfaces, fogging, etc.) as specified on the product label. OPP also released a list of more than 280 commodity inert ingredients for which, if manufacturers need to change their supplier source, they now may do so without notice to EPA. This provides additional flexibility to disinfectant manufacturers when supply chain may be interrupted.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events**Exemptions to the TSCA Fees Rule**

On March 25, announced its plan to expeditiously propose exemptions to the TSCA Fees Rule in response to stakeholder concerns about and challenges with implementing the Rule. The agency plans to initiate a rulemaking process to propose exemptions to the current Rule's self-identification requirements associated with EPA-initiated risk evaluations for manufacturers that (1) import the chemical substance in an article; (2) produce the chemical substance as a byproduct; and (3) produce or import the chemical substance as an impurity.

Grant Opportunity to Support the National Tribal Toxics Council (NTTC)

OPPT will soon announce that it is seeking grant applications from states, federally recognized tribes, and Native American organizations to provide technical support for the NTTC. The NTTC works collaboratively with EPA to represent tribal interests in the development and implementation of chemical risk assessment, risk management, and pollution prevention programs. OPPT anticipates awarding one grant for a total of approximately \$800,000 over five years.

Toxic Substances Control Act Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals (TSCA SACC): TCE, Asbestos

The TSCA SACC met virtually March 24-27 to peer review EPA's draft risk evaluation for trichloroethylene. Participation during the first day of this virtual meeting reached a peak of approximately 200, including Committee members, EPA staff, and public participants. OCSPP will soon announce availability of documents for public comment and peer review, and the dates of the peer review meetings for the draft risk evaluation for asbestos, the ninth of the first ten chemicals identified for risk evaluation under TSCA. The SACC is scheduled to meet virtually to peer review those documents on April 27-30.

Mercury Inventory Report

The week of March 30, OCSPP publish the 2020 Mercury Inventory Report on the supply, use, and trade of mercury in the United States in advance of its April 1 statutory deadline under the Lautenberg Act amendments to TSCA. The report presents aggregated data submitted on imported mercury, mercury manufactured in the United States, imported mercury-added products, mercury-added products made in the United States, and mercury used in manufacturing processes. It also provides a broad view of U.S. mercury stored, sold, and exported, as well as industry sectors and countries involved in the supply, use, and trade of mercury. This report is the first inventory published after finalizing the mercury inventory reporting rule. The data presented in the report, therefore, comes directly from the companies that are using, manufacturing, or importing mercury, providing EPA and the public with more reliable and complete information.

Draft Risk Evaluation Scope Documents for 13 of the 20 High Priority Chemicals

OPPT will soon seek public comment on draft RE scope documents for 13 of the 20 chemicals designated high priority for RE under TSCA. EPA is evaluating them to determine if they present an unreasonable risk to health or the environment under conditions outlined in the scopes. The drafts include proposed conditions of use, hazards, exposures, and potentially exposed or susceptible subpopulations EPA expects to consider. OPPT will later publish a second FRN announcing availability for comment on the seven remaining draft scope documents.

Office of the Chief Financial Officer

Hot Topics

Senate Appropriations Committee Hearings

EPA's April 1 Senate Appropriations Committee hearing on the agency's FY 2021 budget request was cancelled and replaced by a statement for the record at Chair Murkowski's request. The March 31 Senate Environment and Public Works Committee hearing has been postponed. On March 13, EPA received House Appropriations Committee FY 2021 budget hearing Questions for the Record. OCFO provided all but six of the QFRs assigned to OCFO to OCIR on the March 24 due date; the remaining QFRs are undergoing NPM review.

Stimulus Package

On March 25, the Senate passed a \$2 trillion stimulus package to respond to impacts of the coronavirus. The House is expected to vote on the bill on March 27. The bill includes \$7.2 million for EPA to support research, expand pesticides registrations, and disinfect EPA facilities. Once the House passes the bill, the President is expected to sign the bill enacting it into law, which could be as early as this weekend.

Supplemental Funding

OCFO worked with program offices and regions to identify EPA funding opportunities to stimulate the economy in response to recent setbacks due to the coronavirus and provided information to OMB for review. OMB has responded with a number of questions that we are coordinating and responding.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Evidence Act

On April 2, EPA has a call with OMB on the Evidence Act. The purpose of the meeting with OMB is to discuss EPA's progress and plans towards Evidence Act implementation, including our efforts on the Agency's Learning Agenda.

GAO and OIG Audits and Activities

No new agency entrance conferences since the last weekly report.

Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations

Hot Topics

March 31 (Postponed)	EPA's FY 2021 Budget hearing before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (EPA Witness: Administrator Andrew Wheeler). <i>OCIR is coordinating with the Committee as they consider whether this hearing will be postponed or canceled.</i>
March 31 (Canceled)	House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment hearing on "Policies, Recommendations, and Impacts of the President's Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Request." Two EPA officials invited to speak: Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for Land and Emergency Management, Barry Breen and Deputy Assistant Administrator for Water, Charlotte Bertrand. (Not yet publicly posted)
April 1 (Canceled)	EPA's FY 2021 Budget hearing before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies (EPA Witness: Administrator Andrew Wheeler)

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Ongoing	OCIR is fielding multiple committee and member inquiries on coronavirus viral disinfectant and wastewater funding and program implementation issues and coordinating closely with OHS/OPA
(No date)	Conference Call with Senator Daines' Staff to Discuss the Classification Criteria for Nonhazardous Secondary Materials
March 28	Charter renewal of the Human Studies Review Board
March 29	Charter renewal of the Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals
Week of March 30(tent)	ENERGY STAR program will recognize 191 ENERGY STAR partners
March 31	Justin Mattingly, PMP, Clean Water State Revolving Fund, Office of Wastewater Management (OW) will lead a call with District officials Ronald W. Sullivan, Board of Directors, Paul D. Jones II, P.E., General Manager, and Jolene R. Walsh, Director of Government and Public Affairs, to discuss the Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Control Grant Program and how EPA is examining the application of eligibility criteria for water infrastructure projects.
Week of April 6 (tent)	SEPW minority briefing request on Yazoo pumps w/R4, OW.

Office of Enforcement and Compliance AssuranceHot Topics**Enforcement Discretion Policy for COVID-19 Pandemic**

OECA is mindful of the health and safety of the public, as well as our staff, and those of other Federal Agencies, State and Local Governments, Tribes, Regulated Entities, Contractors, and Non-governmental Organizations during the COVID-19 Pandemic. On March 26, taking these important considerations into account, OECA issued a [HYPERLINK "<https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-03/documents/oecamemooncovid19implications.pdf>"] regarding EPA enforcement of environmental legal obligations during the COVID-19 pandemic. The temporary enforcement discretion policy applies to civil violations during the COVID-19 outbreak. The policy does not provide leniency for intentional criminal violations of law. The temporary policy makes it clear that EPA expects regulated facilities to comply with regulatory requirements, where reasonably practicable, and to return to compliance as quickly as possible. To be eligible for enforcement discretion, the policy also requires facilities to document decisions made to prevent or mitigate noncompliance and demonstrate how the noncompliance was caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is important to note that the policy addresses different categories of noncompliance differently. The policy does not apply to activities that are carried out under Superfund and RCRA Corrective Action enforcement instruments. OECA will assess the continued need for and scope of this temporary policy on a regular basis and will update it if it determines modifications are necessary.

No Action Assurance as Bridge to Revisions to the TSCA Fee Rule

OCSPP announced plans to consider a proposed rule that would look at potential exemptions to the TSCA Fees Rule in response to stakeholder concerns about implementation challenges. The agency plans to initiate a new rulemaking process to consider proposing exemptions to the current rule's self-identification requirements associated with EPA-initiated risk evaluations for manufacturers that i) import the chemical substance in an article; ii) produce the chemical substance as a byproduct; and iii) produce or import the chemical substance as an impurity. In light of the extremely unusual circumstances of this situation and the undue hardship imposed on certain businesses who would be required to collect and report information under the TSCA Fees Rule, on March 24, OECA issued a "no action assurance" for the three categories of manufacturers. More specifically, EPA will exercise its enforcement discretion regarding the self-identification requirement for the three categories of manufacturers that the agency intends to propose an exemption from certain requirements in the TSCA Fee Rule.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events**COVID-19 Response**

As part of the COVID-19 response, OECA is working with OAR to review incoming requests for emergency fuel waivers.

Office of General CounselHot Topics***Union of Concerned Scientists et al. v. Wheeler*, No. 19-1383 (1st Cir. Mar. 23)**

The court held that EPA's October 31, 2017 federal advisory committee Directive entitled "Strengthening and Improving Membership on EPA Federal Advisory Committees" (the "Directive") is subject to judicial review and that the fair balance and inappropriate influence provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) provide meaningful standards for the court to apply. The plaintiffs alleged on appeal that the Directive's policy that "no member of an EPA federal advisory committee shall be currently in receipt of EPA grants" is an unjustified departure from past practice in violation of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) and violates FACA's requirements that advisory committees be fairly balanced and free from inappropriate influence. The court treated the plaintiffs' APA claim as subsumed in their FACA claims and dismissed the APA claim as a standalone claim, reversed the district court's dismissal of plaintiffs' FACA claims, and remanded the case for further proceedings consistent with its opinion, which the court anticipates will include filing a certified administrative record.

***Conservation Law Foundation v. ExxonMobil Corp., et al.*, No. 1:16-cv-11950 (D. Mass. Mar. 21)**

EPA is not a party to this case. The court granted Exxon's motion to stay Conservation Law Foundation's (CLF)'s Clean Water Act/Resource Conservation and Recovery Act citizen suit under the doctrine of primary jurisdiction until October 2021, which is when Region 1 expects to reissue Exxon's Everett, MA terminal industrial stormwater National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The court recognized that the doctrine of primary jurisdiction must be applied sparingly, especially in citizen suits authorized by Congress, but found that this case involves a rare set of circumstances in which deferring to the primary jurisdiction of the EPA is justified and appropriate. The court reasoned that (1) determining permit conditions is at the heart of the EPA's authority under the CWA, (2) Exxon's consideration of predictable weather patterns – including flooding and severe storms caused by climate change – raises scientific and policy issues that EPA is better equipped to decide than the court, (3) EPA's renewal of the permit may render CLF's request for injunctive relief moot, and (4) resolving this case on the merits would take at least as long as EPA predicts it will take to renew the permit. The court's order provides that if Region 1 has not reissued the permit by November 1, 2021, the parties shall confer and report, jointly if possible, on the status of the permitting process and their views on whether the stay should be lifted.

***NRDC v EPA*, No. 20-70801 (9th Cir. Mar. 20) and *Rural Coalition v EPA*, No. 20-70801 (9th Cir. Mar. 20)**

On March 20, two different groups of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) filed petitions for review challenging EPA's Interim Registration Review Decision for the pesticide glyphosate. These interim decisions (which are essentially "partial" decisions) address some, but not all, of the issues relevant to a particular pesticide in the registration review process. NRDC's petition does not identify the issues those groups intend to raise and asks that the court "set aside" the registration review decision (which would not directly impact any glyphosate registrations). Rural Coalition's petition asks that the court find that EPA violated its obligations under both FIFRA and the ESA and asks for "appropriate" relief from the court.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Event

Nothing to report.

Office of International and Tribal AffairsHot Topics**Work with Tribes during COVID-19 Pandemic**

AA McIntosh and AIEO Director Scott Mason sent a memo, "COVID-19 and Our Message to the Tribes," last week to all Tribes, EPA Senior Managers, and EPA regional and headquarters tribal program managers that EPA remains "open for business" to support the tribes. AIEO held a virtual meeting with the National Tribal Caucus (NTC) Executive Committee to discuss the COVID-19 tribal impacts and actions. On March 26, OITA AA Chad McIntosh and R7 RA Gulliford (R7 is our lead region) will participate in the regularly scheduled Tribal Program Manager (TPM) bi-weekly call along with other AAs and RAs. The goal of this call will be to discuss EPA's continuing operation of tribal programs, EPA's consultation with tribes, the national response to the COVID 19 challenges faced by tribes, and regional perspectives on tribal outreach and data collection.

G7 Finance Ministers and G7 Foreign Ministers Response

The G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors released a statement about taking action and enhancing coordination on domestic and international policy efforts to respond to the global health, economic, and financial impacts associated with the spread of COVID-19. The G7 finance ministries are working to provide the funding needed to respond to the pandemic, and bilateral and multilateral assistance to strengthen foreign governments' prevention efforts and their health and emergency response systems. The G7 central banks are taking action to put in place a comprehensive package of monetary policy measures to support economic and financial stability by improving liquidity and overall market functioning of the financial system. The G7 Foreign Ministers held their meeting virtually and discussed domestic and international efforts to respond to the global COVID-19 pandemic but failed to reach an agreement on a joint statement.

Marine Litter Interagency Efforts

The State Department held a virtual interagency meeting which included EPA, NOAA, USAID and NSF. State shared that APEC has updated their report on the economic cost of marine debris for APEC economies – up from \$1.26 billion in 2009 to \$11.2 billion in 2015. USAID will announce the next tranche of grant awards for their Clean Cities Blue Ocean Initiative, noting that the awards are largely located in the Philippines, but anticipate expanding to Sri Lanka, Maldives, Dominican Republic, Vietnam, and Peru. USAID will be entering into an MOU with the Alliance to End Plastic Waste for collaboration with USAID's programs in these regions. EPA also participated in the "Face the Waste" webinar series, hosted by State Department which is recorded and streamed live to embassies all over the globe. OITA presented on EPA's marine litter tools and resources, such as EPA's Trash Free Waters Compendium of Great Practices, Trash Free Water webinar series, WasteWise program, Energy Star Portfolio Manager, and upcoming tools, such as OITA's International Trash Free Waters Guide and OLEM's Decision-Makers Guide to Solid Waste Management.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Nothing to report.

Office of the Land and Emergency Management

Hot Topics

Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR)

- a. CCR Phase 2 proposed rule (package 1) – On October 15, 2019, the public comment period ended; OLEM is reviewing the comments.
- b. CCR permitting NPRM (package 3) – This was published in the FR on February 20, 2020, and the public comment period was to end on April 20. Several public interest groups have requested additional time to submit comments on the proposal. In response, OLEM is extending the comment period for 60 days, through June 19.
- c. CCR litigation packages (package 2, parts A and B) – On December 2, 2019, the Part A NPRM package was published in the FR; the 60-day public comment period ended January 31. On March 3, the Part B NPRM was published in the FR; the public comment period ends on April 17.
- d. CCR Legacy Units ANPRM - Package expected to be sent to OP for OMB review soon.

Modernizing Ignitable Liquids Determinations Final Rule

OMB has determined that this final rule is not a significant regulatory action and is, therefore, not subject to an interagency review prior to signature. The Office of the Federal Register is reviewing the incorporation-by-reference aspect of the rule.

PCB Extraction NPRM

OLEM is revising the rule package in response to comments received during workgroup closure. OMB has determined that this proposed rule is a significant regulatory action and, therefore, subject to interagency review.

RMP Reconsideration Final Rule

Three organizations (the United Steelworkers, Earthjustice, and some States) have submitted petitions to EPA for reconsideration of the final rule under CAA Section 307(d)(7)(B).

Ongoing Major Superfund NPL sites

We are working with R2 on Woodbrook Road, Rolling Knolls, and Grasse River; R4 on Oak Ridge, Birmingham 35th Ave., and Petroleum Products Corporation; R5 on St. Regis, and Sandoval; R8 on Anaconda Smelter; and R10 on Portland Harbor, Quendall Terminal, Bradford Island, and East Waterway.

Administrator's Emphasis List (AEL)

OLEM received the Administrator's approval on the next release of the AEL. We are working with OPA on the press release.

CERCLA 108(b) Financial Assurance (next three sectors)

The Industry 2 (Petroleum and Coal) rule package was published in the FR on December 23, 2019, and the public comment period ended on February 21. The Industry 3 (Chemical Manufacturing) NPRM package was published in the FR on February 21, and the public comment period ends on April 21,

PFAS

Designation of PFOA/PFOS as CERCLA Hazardous Substances NPRM. The rule package was submitted to the Office of Policy on September 20, 2019, for OMB review.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

OLEM Town Hall

This will take place with OLEM employees on March 26.

Hazardous Waste e-Manifest

A revised notice of the e-Manifest Advisory Board meeting will be published March 27 to announce that the meeting is converting to a three-day virtual public meeting April 14-16 from approximately 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. eastern each day.

Office of Mission SupportHot Topics**Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) Task Force**

OMS continues to coordinate with the AO, NPMs and Regions, Office of Management and Budget, Office of Personnel Management, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Health and Human Services and General Services Administration, and State and Local Public Health Departments to stay up to date on COVID-19. OMS will continue to provide updates to employees through mass mailers, which will be posted on the agency intranet page.

Virtual Onboarding/New Employee Orientation (NEO) and Offboarding Processes

OMS established virtual processes for Onboarding/NEO and Offboarding during the COVID-19 pandemic. Virtual NEO/Onboarding will be implemented for March 29. Virtual Offboarding Process & Guidance will be issued as well.

Credentialing Center Updates

As a result of current operating procedures for federal agencies, many of the Credentialing Centers for EPA and other agencies have closed or have modified their hours. New hires must report to credentialing centers to be fingerprinted and have their identification documents scanned and sent to EPA. Prospective EPA employees and contractors have been notified to confirm the operating status of the Credentialing Center through [HYPERLINK "https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fedidcard.gov%2F&data=02%7C01%7CCarter-Jenkins.Shakeba%40epa.gov%7Cb324620ecd2549284e0008d7d16e9f4e%7C88b378b367484867acf976aacbeca6a7%7C0%7C0%7C637208145364197994&sdata=eVR809pzV4bruMgITLzNd0MQsG2kdRWYazAlnduYyrE%3D&reserved=0"].

Upcoming Internal & External Grants Guidance related to COVID-19

OMS expects to issue guidance on the EPA intranet to EPA grant and program office staff this week addressing grant issues related to COVID-19 which incorporates grant guidance issued by Office of Management and Budget on March 19 on administrative flexibilities available to applicants and grantees whose operations are affected by COVID-19. Additionally, this week OMS expects to issue and post on the EPA internet by guidance to EPA applicants and grantees incorporating the grant guidance issued by OMB on March 19. OMS will update both sets of guidance periodically as developments warrant. The OMB guidance can be found here [HYPERLINK "https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.whitehouse.gov%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2020%2F03%2FM-20-17.pdf&data=02%7C01%7CCarter-Jenkins.Shakeba%40epa.gov%7Cd4078b76c81c422ec17608d7cf2e59ab%7C88b378b367484867acf976aacbeca6a7%7C0%7C0%7C637205670280609641&sdata=VCVkpzjPlojqvGtxbgc%2BzSYJv%2B277vdQ1Muq%2Fi7DOKM%3D&reserved=0"].

Emergency Acquisition Documents and Tools Toolkit

An [HYPERLINK

"https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fusepa.sharepoint.com%2Fsites%2FOARM_Community%2Foam.kms%2FToolkits%2FEMERGENCY%2520ACQUISITION%2520DOCUMENTS%2520and%2520TOOLS.aspx&data=02%7C01%7CCarter-Jenkins.Shakeba%40epa.gov%7C50817b1f269b47d3529208d7d01a9dda%7C88b378b367484867acf976aacbeca6a7%7C0%7C0%7C637206685039060120&sdata=s8x1skjuBt5Bkbep2Vr6doO%2BtkOfxEtq9yfFkjl7As%3D&reserved=0" \t "_blank"] Toolkit was added to the OMS [HYPERLINK "https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fusepa.sharepoint.com%2Fsites%2FOARM_Community%2Foam.kms%2FSitePages%2FHome.aspx&data=02%7C01%7CCarter-Jenkins.Shakeba%40epa.gov%7C50817b1f269b47d3529208d7d01a9dda%7C88b378b367484867acf976aacbec

a6a7%7C0%7C0%7C637206685039060120&sdata=sPZTTOfTZl3x%2BgSU%2B%2FcxUi4SNnCXrd4oE0V5hCNbXH8%3D&reserved=0" \t "_blank"] toolkit page to assist acquisition personnel during the COVID-19 crisis. The toolkit includes forms, links, helpful tools and references. Additional resources and tools are expected to be added as they become available.

Acquisition Flash Notices Relating to COVID-19

On March 16, OMS issued a Flash Notice to the EPA acquisition community providing acquisition information related to the federal response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). On March 18,, a follow up Flash Notice was provided to the acquisition community with an update from the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs granting limited exemptions and waivers from some of the requirements of the laws administered their Office in the Federal response to COVID-19.

Purchase Card Eblast Notices Related to COVID-19

Last week, OMS issued three Eblast Notices to the EPA Purchase Card Community:

- An Eblast Notice informed the PCC that EPA, per the approved Class Determination & Findings, *Activation of Special Emergency Acquisition Authorities*, activated acquisition flexibilities which included increased Micro-Purchase Thresholds. On a case-by-case basis, the increased micro-purchase thresholds may be approved for an individual purchase cardholder by EPA's National Purchase Card Program Manager or delegate in support of the Federal response to the emergency conditions resulting from the COVID-19. A new National Interest Action (NIA) code has been established for reporting purchases related to the Coronavirus pursuant to the authorities identified in FAR subpart 18.2. Any/all purchases supporting the agency's response to the Coronavirus must identify the amount of the purchase and be coded with the following: (a) NIA Code: P20C; and, (b) NIA Description: COVID-19 2020 (include description of item). Domestic purchases shall not exceed \$20,000 per transaction and foreign purchases shall not exceed \$30,000 per transaction for purchases made in support of the Federal response to the emergency conditions resulting from the COVID-19.
- An Eblast Notice communicating that due to ongoing telework arrangements, the Working Capital Fund (WCF) is suspending, temporarily, its enforcement of policy that states postage services must be purchased through the WCF using service agreements. Until further guidance is provided, as a temporary solution, agency purchase card holders are authorized to purchase postage using their purchase card, if needed, to support the agency's mission. For accountability purposes, Approving Officials must maintain a log/record that tracks the quantity and dollar amount of postage purchased and the quantity used.
- On March 20, OMS issued a follow-up notice communicating the requirement for cardholders to complete an agency report to track all cardholder transactions made in support of agency's response to emergency conditions resulting from COVID-19. Cardholders are required to populate the agency report at time of the purchase when using the agency's purchase card or convenience check.

Skype Usage Up Significantly

In the past week, Skype usage has gone up significantly.

- OMS distributed a [

- Organized Meetings: Increased by over 250%
- Participated in Meetings: Increased by over 250%
- Peer to Peer Communication (Chatting): Increased by over 140%
- Teams use is also increasing.
 - Teams is not yet fully supported at EPA but is available for employees to use optionally.
 - Teams use doubled in the past week.
 - OMS trained 450 helpdesk support and employees on Teams this week.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Executive Resources Board Spring Meeting Postponed

Office of PolicyHot Topics**Draft Economic Guidelines**

Next week, OP's National Center for Environmental Economics expects to provide the Science Advisory Board a draft final update of the agency's *Guidelines for Preparing Economic Analyses*. This is the first major revision since 2010. This update will ensure that the guidelines, which we use to analyze the economic impact of our regulatory actions, are current with all the advances made in economics since that time.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Active Interagency Reviews from OMB		
Subject		OMB Due Date
DOC/NOAA NPRM: Proposed Expansion and Regulatory Revision of Monitor National Marine Sanctuary; Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Management Plan		03/27/2020
OPM NPRM: Designation of Certain Services as Emergency Services Under the Antideficiency Act; Lapse in Appropriation - Enroll and Change Enrollment in FEHB Program and Continuation of Certain Insurance Benefits		03/27/2020
FAR NPRM (Pass-back): Federal Acquisition Regulation: Prohibition on Contracting with Entities Using Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment (FAR Case 2019-009)		03/30/2020
DOI/NPS NPRM: Commercial Visitor Services; Concession Contracts		03/30/2020
DOT/PHMSA NPRM: Pipeline Safety: Amendments to Liquefied Natural Gas Facilities		03/31/2020
State FRM: Environmental Protection: Regulations for Implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)		04/01/2020
SBA FRM: Women-Owned Small Business and Economically Disadvantaged Women-Owned Small Business Certification		04/01/2020
Treasury/IRS NPRM: Tax on Excess Tax-Exempt Organization Executive Compensation		04/02/2020
DOE/OEERE NPRM: Energy Conservation Program: Clarifying Amendments to the Error Correction Rule		04/07/2020
Documents Sent to the OFR from March 19 - 25, 2020		
FRL #	Title	Date Sent to FR
10005-16-Region 3	Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Allegheny County Administrative Revisions to Definitions, Remedies, and Enforcement Orders Sections and Incorporation by Reference of National Ambient Air Quality Standards	03-25-2020
10007-04-Region 4	Air Quality Plans; Florida; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2015 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard	03-25-2020
10007-16-Region 4	Air Plan Approval; TN; Prevention of Significant Deterioration Infrastructure Requirements for the 2015 Ozone NAAQS	03-25-2020
10007-15-Region 4	Air Plan Approval; TN; Chattanooga Miscellaneous Revisions	03-25-2020
10007-17-Region 4	Air Plan Approval; Tennessee: Chattanooga NSR Reform	03-25-2020
10007-14-OW	Updates to NPDES eRule Data Elements to Reflect MS4 General Permit Remand Rule	03-25-2020
10007-13-OLEM	Hazardous Waste Electronic Manifest System ("e-Manifest") Advisory Board; Revised Notice of Public Meeting	03-25-2020
10007-22-ORD	Authority: Pub. L. 92-463, §1, Oct. 6, 1972, 86 Stat. 770. Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC) Air and Energy Subcommittee Meeting – April 2020; Correction	03-25-2020
10004-51-OCSP	Modification of Significant New Uses of Certain Chemical Substances	03-24-2020
10005-89-OCSP	Proposed Revocation of Significant New Use Rule for a Certain Chemical Substance	03-24-2020
10006-60-OCSP	Pesticide Product Registration; Receipt of Applications for New Active Ingredients (February 2020)	03-24-2020

10007-12-Region 7	Air Plan Approval; Missouri; Control of Emissions from Aerospace Manufacture and Rework Facilities	03-24-2020
10006-85-Region 9	Air Quality State Implementation Plan Approval; Nevada; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2010 Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standard	03-23-2020
10007-00-Region 9	Air Plan Approval; California; Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District; Reasonably Available Control Technology; Correcting Amendment	03-23-2020
10006-97-Region 6	Air Plan Approval; Texas; Dallas-Fort Worth Area Redesignation and Maintenance Plan for Revoked Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards	03-20-2020
10006-69-OLEM	Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection; Comment Request; General Hazardous Waste Facility Standards	03-20-2020
10006-78-OLEM	Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Information Requirements for Boilers and Industrial Furnaces	03-20-2020
10007-10-Region 1	Air Plan Approval and Air Quality Designation; Connecticut; Determination of Clean Data for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone Standard for the Greater Connecticut Area	03-20-2020
10006-58-Region 1	Approval and Promulgation of State Plan (Negative Declaration) for Designated Facilities and Pollutants: Vermont	03-19-2020
10006-28-Region 6	Air Plan Approval; Oklahoma; Updates to the General SIP and New Source Review Permitting Requirements	03-19-2020
10006-43-Region 6	Air Plan Approval; Oklahoma; Infrastructure for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards	03-19-2020
10006-59-Region 1	Approval and Promulgation of State Plan (Negative Declaration) for Designated Facilities and Pollutants: Vermont	03-19-2020

Office of Research and DevelopmentHot Topics**Supporting CDC for COVID-19 Response**

ORD scientists are sharing EPA reports and other useful technical information on sample collection with the CDC's Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) team. CDC consulted with ORD researchers about environmental surface samples and wastewater sample collection and analysis to respond to a potential expansion of the response to the current Coronavirus pandemic. Both the teams discussed various aspects of surface and wastewater sample collection and the challenges associated with the interpretation of sample analysis results. This interagency collaboration and cooperation will continue. ORD leadership met with all ORD managers, where we emphasized concern for employee health and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic. We shared our staff engagement SOP to be used during long term telework and COOP situations.

Michigan PFAS Meeting

On March 23 ORD researchers discussed current and planned EPA PFAS research with the Michigan PFAS Action Response Team (MPART). MPART is especially interested in EPA's PFAS destruction research. MPART also expressed interest in decontamination efforts, particularly for fire departments that have used AFFF. ORD provided information on the current research being done in these areas. A follow-up call will be scheduled in a couple of months.

Researchers Continue Joint PFAS Project with AFIT & AFCEC

In a continuing effort, EPA researchers are working with the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT) and Air Force Civil Engineer Center (AFCEC) on a joint project to develop models to predict the cost of remediation at PFAS contaminated sites. ORD is currently running models for several different treatment scenarios provided by AFCEC. OGWDW is involved in this effort. The final product is expected to be a technical memo published in April by AFCEC regarding rough costs of PFAS treatment. The next step will be a more detailed effort on treatment options with more potential publications to follow later in the year.

Strengthening Transparency in Regulatory Science; Supplemental Proposal (Tier 1)

On March 24, ORD convened a meeting of the Action Development Process (ADP) workgroup to discuss next steps on the supplemental proposed rule, including addressing public comments and a plan and schedule for the final rule.

SBIR Phase I Contracts

Last week, EPA [[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-awards-23-million-funding-small-businesses-develop-innovative-environmental"](https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-awards-23-million-funding-small-businesses-develop-innovative-environmental)] \$2.3 million in funding for 23 contracts with small businesses as part of Phase I of the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program. Recipients of Phase I funding receive up to \$100,000 to develop their environmental technologies for marketplace. This year's Phase I recipients are providing innovative solutions to environmental challenges including PFAS, microplastics, air contamination and food waste.

Science and Technology Achievement Award (STAA) Recipients

The 2019 STAA recipients have been announced. The list of recipients is available under the "2019 STAA Awards" tab on the [[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/research/scientific-and-technological-achievement-award-staa"](https://www.epa.gov/research/scientific-and-technological-achievement-award-staa)] and on [[HYPERLINK "https://intranet.ord.epa.gov/awards/scientific-and-technological-achievement-award-staa"](https://intranet.ord.epa.gov/awards/scientific-and-technological-achievement-award-staa)]. The STAA program is an agency-wide competition sponsored by ORD that recognizes outstanding scientific and technological papers published by EPA employees. EPA scientists and engineers submit their publications to be evaluated by a panel of experienced scientists and engineers convened by EPA's Science Advisory Board (SAB). The SAB review panel reviews the nominations and produces a set of recommendations used to finalize the award recipients.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Science Fair Virtual Judges

On March 27, five EPA-RTP employees will participate as virtual judges for the North Carolina Student Academy of Science State Competition. The event is being held by the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics in Durham, NC.

Air and Energy (A-E) Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC) Meeting

On April 1-2, the Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC) A-E Subcommittee will have a public meeting with the A-E team to learn more about A-E's research portfolio; receive an overview of A-E engagement with the Regions, programs, states and tribes; and discuss BOSC StRAP review and recommendations. More information can be found on the [HYPERLINK "<https://www.epa.gov/bosc/air-and-energy-subcommittee-meeting-materials-april-1-2-2020>"].

Office of Water

Hot Topics

Supporting Americans and the Water Sector during the COVID-19 Pandemic

The Office of Water is engaged in a significant number of activities and information requests to support the water sector on responding to COVID-19. Of note, on March 26, OW will be web-posting additional resources that drinking water and wastewater utilities can use to help ensure continued operations during the pandemic, including an Incident Action Checklist. These resources will support utilities' resiliency planning as it relates to potential impacts of COVID-19, including addressing potential staff shortages and supply chain disruptions. OW is also working with the AO to support the essential nature of the water workforce and the supply chain via a potential announcement this week or next. Additionally, we are developing a messaging campaign to discourage Americans from flushing disinfecting wipes and other materials that can damage plumbing, sewer systems, and septic systems.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Nothing to report.